

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 29 are pending in the application; claims 30-35 are canceled..

Claims Objections

Claims 27-29 are objected to because "carbody" is misspelled. The claims have been corrected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter the applicant regards as the invention. The examiner states that the specification as filed sets forth that the lens is painted and that this is different from what is claimed in claim 28 as claim 28 states that the perforation openings are painted.

Applicant respectfully submits that the specification as filed discloses this alternative in paragraph 0036. This paragraph reads (emphasis added):

"Instead of the lens 13, 13a, it is possible to provide a fine perforation in the car body part in the area of the vehicle light 5, 5a. The perforation openings are filled in with transparent material, in particular, by casting. Since the perforation openings have a very small diameter, they cannot be seen from the exterior. The light emitted by the illumination elements 22, 22a arranged behind these perforations can pass through the transparent material in these perforation openings and reach the exterior. It is also possible to cover the exit of the perforation openings with a coat of paint 31 which again is only so thick that the perforation openings cannot be detected from the exterior but allow the passage of light."

The same principle that is used for the lens is thus also used for an alternative to a lens in the form of perforations filled in with transparent material, i.e., the lens is comprised of multiple pieces of transparent material that fills the perforation openings. The lens comprised of the individual filled-in pieces is then coated with a coat of paint.

In applicant's view, the alternative embodiment of perforations filled in with transparent material and coated with a coat of paint is properly disclosed and within the scope of the invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims 28 and 29 pursuant to 35 USC 112 are therefore respectfully requested.

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If examiner is of the opinion that the claim language of claim 28 needs clarification, Applicant would be willing to accept the following changes:

"wherein the perforation openings filled in with transparent material are coated with a coating so thick that the perforation openings cannot be detected from the exterior but allow passage of light".

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Graff* (US 1,721,903).

Claim 27 claims a vehicle light for motor vehicles that has at least one vehicle light housing configured to be arranged on an inner side of a continuous car body part, wherein the car body part has perforation openings filled in with light-transmissive material in an area behind which the at least one vehicle light housing is arranged. At least one illumination element is arranged in the at least one vehicle light housing. The light emitted by the at least one illumination element passes through the perforation openings when the at least one illumination element is switched on.

The examiner argues that reference numeral 1 indicates a vehicle light housing to be arranged on the inner side of a continuous body part as shown in Fig. 2. The car body part has perforation openings as shown in Fig. 2 by the rim about the lens 5; the opening is filled in with light transmissive material 5 in an area of the housing 1. The light emitted by the illumination means passes through the perforation openings.

The description of the lamp of the cited reference is as follows: "... dome lamp in which 1 is the hollow or dish-shape body preferably formed of sheet metal and having the annular rim 2 ..." (page 1, lines 22-25). The lamp is therefore comprised of the body 1 and the rim 2. The rim is part of the lamp and not part of the car body. Also, the section view of Fig. 2 shows clearly that rim 2 is a monolithic part of the body 1.

The body 1/rim 2 of the lamp is connected, for example, by screws screwed through openings 3 in the body 1 to the supporting member (i.e. the car body part). The openings 3 are indicated in Fig. 2. Therefore, the body 1 with rim 2 is connected to the car body part and the glass 5 covering the light opening is facing away from the car body part. The car body part ("supporting member") is not shown in the drawings, but from the arrangement of the lamp and the indicated bores 3 for the screws it is apparent that the supporting

member must be arranged on the side of the body 1 facing away from the lens 5. The inner face of the body 1 is polished to form a reflector that reflects the light through the openings 5, 12 (lines 42-44 of page 1) provided in the retainer 6. The retainer 6 is an insert that is secured in the body 1/rim 2 by mating recesses 19 and depressions 18 (see page 1, lines 60 to 67). This configuration represents a complete lamp that is mounted somewhere in the interior of a vehicle by screws extending through the openings 3 in the body 1. No perforations or openings in the car body part to which the lamp is mounted are disclosed.

Claim 27 is not anticipated in view of the cited reference.

Claim 27 is also not obvious in view of the cited reference as the reference discloses a complete lamp having a housing with openings 5, 12 for allowing passage of light.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claim 27 pursuant to 35 USC 102 are therefore respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1 to 26 are allowed.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on February 24, 2006,


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